Assistance to Handloom Sector

3459. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to provide assistance to handloom sector for commercial exploitation of its products;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof.

(c) what is the total number of handloom weavers cooperative societies working in different parts of the country; and

(d) what specific facilities have been given to these societies by Government for improvement of the economic condition of the weavers ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The Government of India is implementing several schemes for promoting the sale of handloom products such as :—

(i) Market Development Assistance Scheme;

(ii) Opening of handloom marketing complexes in different parts of the country through the National Handloom Development Corporation;

(iii) Giving assistance for National Design Collection programmes for the promotion of unique weaves and designs through Exhibition-cum-sales;

(iv) Organisation of National Handloom Expose in major cities of the country and;

(v) Extending Cash Compensatory Support. Import Replenishments. Duty Draw Back etc., to exporters of cotton handloom items registered with the Handloom Export Promotion Council;

(c) The total number of Handloom weavers Cooperative Societies which are working in different parts of the country is 15122.

(d) The facilities being given to the handloom sector including cooperative societies to improve the economic condition of the weavers *inter-alia* include;

(i) Scheme for promoting the marketing of handloom products through Market Development Assistance Scheme;

(ii) Credit at concessional rates of interest through NABARD refinance;

(iii) Training of weavers and managerial staff of societies to improve productivity and training programmes for better management of societies :

(iv) Ensure fuller employment potential through the Janata cloth production scheme;

(v) Supply of yarn through National Handloom Development Corporation.

(vi) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme and Thrift Fund Scheme.

(vii) Scheme for modernisation/renovation/purchase of looms.

Financing of Projects of Ispat Profiles Ltd. by IFCI

3460. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Industrial Finance Corporation of India has financed any project of Ispat Profiles Ltd; and

(b) if so, whether the loan agreement was signed at the residence of the Director of the beneficiary company ?.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) and (b) Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) has reported that it has, in consortium with some other financial institutions and banks, sanctioned various Rupee and foreign currency loans to the unit. The various loan agreements for this purpose were signed at the regional office of IFCI at Calcutta between April 1986 and May 1990.